BACKGROUNDER NO. 5-5939 JUNE 23, 1978
CLAUDIO ESKENAZI

THIS WEEK NO. 25

ANNCR:

"THIS WEEK."

FROM THE VOICE OF AMERICA, THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK GONE BY...A LOOK AT SOME OF THE EVENTS, A CROSS-SECTION OF THE IDEAS, AND THE VOICES OF SOME OF THE PEOPLE WHO MADE NEWS DURING THE PAST SEVEN DAYS. YOUR NARRATOR----------.

NARR:

THE MIDDLE EAST WAS BACK IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK AFTER THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT RESPONDED TO U.S. INQUIRIES ON THE FUTURE STATUS OF THE OCCUPIED WEST BANK AND THE GAZA STRIP. ISRAEL'S ORIGINAL PEACE PLAN CALLS FOR A FIVE-YEAR PERIOD OF LIMITED PALESTINIAN SELF-RULE IN THE WEST BANK, AFTER WHICH ISRAEL SAYS IT WILL REVIEW THE SITUATION. THE UNITED STATES RECENTLY REQUESTED A MORE SPECIFIC DECLARATION OF INTENT ON THE STATUS OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORY, AND THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT REPLIED ON SUNDAY THAT AFTER THE FIVE-YEAR PERIOD IT WOULD BE WILLING TO TALK ABOUT WHAT IT CALLED "THE NATURE OF THE FUTURE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE PARTIES" -- THUS REFUSING TO COMMIT ITSELF AT THIS TIME ON THE FUTURE OF THE WEST BANK AND THE GAZA STRIP.

A FEW DAYS LATER, STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN HODDING CARTER SAID THE UNITED STATES REGRETS THAT ISRAEL DID NOT FULLY RESPOND TO THE AMERICAN QUESTIONS:

<u>TAPE: CUT ONE -- CARTER</u>

"WE HAVE NOW HAD TIME TO REFLECT ON THE ISRAELI REPLIES, AND WE HAVE ALSO RECEIVED A FULL EXPLANATION ON THE CABINET DECISION FROM FOREIGN MINISTER DAYAN. WE REGRET THAT THE ISRAELI REPLIES DID NOT FULLY RESPOND TO OUR QUESTIONS."

NARR:

HOWEVER, AMERICAN OFFICIALS STRESSED THIS WEEK THAT THE UNITED STATES IS DETERMINED TO KEEP THE MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATING

PROCESS ALIVE AND THAT SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE IS PREPARED TO GO TO THE AREA NEXT MONTH WITH NEW AMERICAN SUGGESTIONS IF THAT IS WHAT IS NECESSARY TO REVIVE THE NEGOTIATIONS. BUT SPOKESMAN CARTER STRESSED THAT NO DECISIONS HAVE BEEN MADE AND THAT SEVERAL OPTIONS ARE STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION.

IN CAIRO, MEANWHILE, EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT ANWAR SADAT CRITICIZED ISREAL'S POLICY STATEMENT ON THE FUTURE OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, BUT HE ADDED THAT HE REMAINED OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE FUTURE OF PEACE PROSPECTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST:

TAPE: CUT TWO -- SADAT

"SOMEONE SAID THAT MY INITIATIVE WILL BE DEAD. WELL, TO THOSE I ALWAYS SAY, MY INITIATIVE WILL NEVER BE DEAD, BECAUSE IT WAS SPONSORED BY THE WHOLE WORLD PUBLIC OPINION, MAINLY THE AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION. I THINK THAT IF THE UNITED STATES TAKES ITS FULL RESPONSIBILITY AS A FULL PARTNER THE WHOLE THING CAN BE RESTORED AGAIN."

NARR:

THE EGYPTIAN LEADER ALSO SAID ISRAEL'S REPLY TO THE U.S. QUESTIONS WAS EVASIVE. BUT HE ADDED THAT CAIRO WAS WILLING TO RESUME DIRECT TALKS IF ISRAEL SUBMITS WHAT PRESIDENT SADAT CALLED NEW ELEMENTS THAT WOULD MEAN MOVEMENT RATHER THAN A STANDSTILL.

(OPT) IN WASHINGTON MEANWHILE, ONE OF ISRAEL'S STAUNCHEST SUPPORTERS IN THE U.S. SENATE, JACOB JAVITS, CRITICIZED THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT'S STATEMENT ON THE FUTURE OF THE WEST BANK:

TAPE: CUT THREE -- JAVITS

"THE FACT IS THAT IT LEAVES US JUST EXACTLY WHERE WE WERE AND DOES NOT ADVANCE THE NEGOTIATIONS ONE BIT. IT DOESN'T EVEN MENTION UNITED NATIONS RESOLUTION 242; IT DOESN'T MENTION THE ASWAN FORMULA; IT DOESN'T EVEN STEP ON THE SHOULDERS OF WHAT'S ALREADY BEEN ACCOMPLISHED; IT DOESN'T MENTION THE FACTS THAT ARE GENERALLY KNOWN, THAT THE UNITED STATES AT LEAST HAS UNDERSTOOD THAT AN ISRAELI SECURITY POSITION HAS TO BE ACCOMODATED DURING THE FIVE-YEAR PERIOD AND THEREAFTER UNTIL ONE IS SURE ABOUT ISRAEL'S SECURITY ON THE WEST BANK. IT (THE ISRAELI RESPONSE) TAKES A BLAND ATTITUDE, AS IF NOTHING HAD HAPPENED, AND THERE IS NO PROGRESS." (END OPT)

THIS WEEK SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE OUTLINED U.S. POLICY TOWARD AFRICA IN WHICH HE SAYS THE UNITED STATES IS TRYING TO PURSUE A POSITIVE APPROACH BASED ON AMERICAN INTERESTS AND AFRICAN REALITIES. MISTER VANCE ALSO SAID THAT THE UNITED STATES REMAINS CONVINCED THAT IT WOULD BE NEITHER RIGHT NOR EFFECTIVE TO TREAT AFRICA AS AN ARENA FOR EAST-WEST CONFRONTATION. HE EXPRESSED SERIOUS CONCERN OVER SOVIET AND CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN AFRICA, BUT HE INSISTED THAT THE BEST COURSE FOR THE UNITED STATES IS TO RESPOND WITH POSITIVE ACTION :

TAPE: CUT FOUR -- VANCE

"IT WILL NOT BE OUR POLICY TO MIRROR SOVIET AND CUBAN ACTIVITIES IN AFRICA BECAUSE SUCH A COURSE WOULD NOT BE EFFECTIVE IN THE LONG RUN AND WOULD ONLY ESCALATE MILITARY CONFLICT WITH GREAT HUMAN SUFFERING. OUR BEST COURSE IS TO HELP RESOLVE THE PROBLEMS WHICH CREATE THE EXCUSE FOR EXTERNAL INTERVENTION AND TO HELP STRENGTHEN THE ABILITY OF AFRICANS TO DEFEND THEMSELVES."

NARR:

AFTERWARDS, U.S. OFFICIALS SAID SECRETARY VANCE'S STATEMENTS WERE MEANT TO STRESS THAT DESPITE RECENT EVENTS AND RHETORIC, U.S. POLICY TOWARD AFRICA HAS NOT CHANGED -- THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION STILL BELIEVES THAT THE BEST RESPONSE TO CUBAN AND SOVIET INTERVENTION IS AN AFFIRMATIVE APPROACH TO AFRICAN ASPIRATIONS.

(OPT) STILL, MISTER VANCE'S SPEECH DID CONTAIN ONE NEW ELEMENT -- A SUGGESTION THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD LIKE TO INCREASE ITS CONTACTS WITH ANGOLA. AND LATER IN THE WEEK TWO U.S. DIPLOMATS ARRIVED IN LUANDA FOR TALKS WITH ANGOLAN PRESIDENT AGOSTINHO NETO. THE TWO SIDES ARE EXPECTED TO DISCUSS THE NAMIBIAN QUESTION AS WELL AS RELATIONS BETWEEN ANGOLA AND ZAIRE. THE KATANGAN EXILES WHO INVADED ZAIRE'S SHABA PROVINCE

LAST MONTH BEGAN THEIR ASSAULT FROM BASES APPARENTLY INSIDE ANGOLA.

U.S. OFFICIALS HAVE CAUTIONED THAT THE UNITED STATES IS NOT RUSHING TOWARD RECOGNITION OF THE LUANDA GOVERNMENT. FOR ONE THING THEY NOTE THAT THE PRESENCE OF MORE THAN TWENTY THOUSAND CUBAN TROOPS STILL PRESENTS A PROBLEM. BUT THEY SAID IT WOULD BE HELPFUL FOR THE TWO GOVERNMENTS TO STEP UP THEIR LEVEL OF CONSULTATION. (END OPT)

THE WAR OF WORDS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION TOOK ON A CONCILIATORY TONE THIS WEEK AFTER SECRETARY VANCE SAID WASHINGTON WANTS TO COOPERATE WITH MOSCOW AND TO REDUCE TENSIONS. MISTER VANCE'S COMMENTS CONSTITUTE THE FIRST AMERICAN RESPONSE TO THE SHARP SOVIET ATTACK ON THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION PUBLISHED LAST WEEKEND IN THE SOVIET NEWSPAPER PRAVDA. IN THE ATTACK MOSCOW ACUSED THE UNITED STATES OF ADOPTING A HARDLINE APPROACH THAT HAS DELIBERATELY HARMED SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS. MISTER VANCE SAID THIS ASSESMENT IS INCORRECT:

<u>TAPE: CUT FIVE -- VANCE</u>

"AS THE PRESIDENT INDICATED, AND AS I INDICATED AGAIN TODAY, WE SEEK TO EXPAND THE AREAS OF COOPERATION, AND WE ARE GOING TO BEND OUR EFFORTS TO THAT END. WE HOPE THAT WE WILL FIND RECIPROCAL ACTION ON THE OTHER SIDE. THIS IS A TWO-WAY STREET. IT IS CLEAR WHERE WE STAND. WE DO WANT TO SEE COOPERATION. WE DO WANT TO SEE TENSIONS LESSENED, AND WE WANT TO MAKE IT VERY CLEAR THAT THAT IS OUR POLICY, OUR HOPE AND OUR DESIRE."

NARR:

(OPT) MISTER VANCE ALSO DECLINED TO DISCUSS THE PRAVDA ARTICLE IN ANY DETAIL, SAYING IT IS A CAREFULLY WRITTEN ARTICLE THAT MUST BE CAREFULLY STUDIED BEFORE THE UNITED STATES CAN RESPOND. BUT IN A BRIEF GENERAL COMMENT HE SOUGHT TO PUT A POSITIVE TONE ON THE ARTICLE, SAYING IT LEFT THE DOOR OPEN FOR IMPROVED RELATIONS. ALTHOUGH HE SAID IT CONTAINS SOME VERY HARSH WORDS, THE ARTICLE

INDICATED THAT THE SOVIET UNION STILL DESIRES TO PURSUE THE PATH TO AGREEMENT AND DETENTE. (END OPT)

SPEAKING AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES IN WASHINGTON THIS WEEK, PRESIDENT CARTER PROMISED A CONTINUED AND STRONG U.S. COMMITMENT IN SUPPORT OF HUMAN RIGHTS. HE SAID HE IS CONVINCED THAT THE PEOPLES OF THE AMERICAS WANT A WORLD FREE FROM TORTURE, ARBITRARY ARREST AND DETNETION WITHOUT TRIAL. AND MISTER CARTER MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL USE ITS INFLUENCE TO PROMOTE HUMAN RIGHTS AND PENALIZE RIGHTS VIOLATORS:

TAPE: CUT SIX -- CARTER

"MY GOVERNMENT WILL NOT BE DETERRED FROM OUR OPEN AND ENTHUSIASTIC POLICY OF PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS -- INCLUDING ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RIGHTS - IN WHATEVER WAYS WE CAN. WE PREFER TO TAKE ACTIONS THAT ARE POSITIVE. BUT WHERE COUNTRIES PERSIST IN SERIOUS VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS, WE WILL CONTINUE TO DEMONSTRATE THAT THERE ARE COSTS TO THE FLAGRANT DISREGARD OF INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS."

NARR: (OPT)

PRESIDENT CARTER ALSO WELCOMED THE MOVES OVER THE PAST YEAR TO STRENGTHEN THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS. AND HE SAID THE COMMISSION'S INVESTIGATIONS SHOULD BE VIEWED NOT AS INTERFERENCE IN A COUNTRY'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS, BUT RATHER AS A WAY IN WHICH A NATION UNJUSTLY ACCUSED OF RIGHTS VIOLATIONS CAN CLEAR ITS NAME. (END OPT)

RELATIONS BETWEEN CHINA AND VIETNAM WORSENED THIS WEEK AS CHINA CLOSED DOWN THREE VIETNAMESE CONSULATES GENERAL AND BOTH NATIONS CONTINUED TO EXCHANGE SHARP WORDS. HANOI RADIO SAID THE CHINESE MOVE WAS ONE OF A NUMBER OF UGLY AND BLATANT ACTS IN A POLICY OF UNDERMINING THE FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. THE OTHER ACTS, ACCORDING TO THE BROADCAST, INCLUDE CHINA'S ASSISTANCE TO CAMBODIA IN ITS ATTACKS AGINST VIETNAM, THE USE OF SO-CALLED LACKEYS TO INSTIGATE ETHNIC CHINESE TO LEAVE

VIETNAM, AND THE CUTTING OF AID PROJECTS ALONG WITH THE WITHDRAWAL OF CHINESE SPECIALISTS FROM VIETNAM BY PEKING.

LATER IN THE WEEK, VIETNAM ALSO SAID THAT TALKS WITH CHINA OVER TERMS FOR THE NAVAL EVACUATION OF ETHNIC CHINESE WHO WANT TO LEAVE VIETNAM ARE NOW DEADLOCKED. MEANWHILE, CHINESE SHIPS REMAIN ACHORED OUTSIDE VIETNAMESE TERRITORIAL WATERS UNTIL AGREEMENT ON THE EVACUATION IS REACHED. THE CHINESE APPARENTLY WANT TO DOCK DIRECTLY IN THE PORTS OF HO CHI MINH CITY AND HAIPHONG INSTEAD OF AT NEARBY WHARVES AS DEMANDED BY HANOI. THE CHINESE ALSO WANT THEIR OWN REPRESENTATIVES TO HAVE A SAY IN DECIDING WHICH CHINESE WILL BE EVACUATED INSTEAD OF LEAVING THE MATTER SOLELY IN THE HANDS OF VIETNAMESE OFFICIALS.

(OPT) IN A RELATED DEVELOPMENT, VIETNAM THIS WEEK ACCUSED THE LEADERSHIP OF NEIGHBORING CAMBODIA OF GENOCIDE, AND IT BROADCAST AN APPEAL BY A FORMER CAMBODIAN ARMY OFFICER URGING THE CAMBODIAN PEOPLE AND ARMED FORCES TO OVERTHROW THEIR GOVERNMENT IN PNOM PENH. VOA CORRESPONDENT WAYNE COREY HAS THIS REPORT:

TAPE: CUT SEVEN -- COREY

"IN A SERIES OF BROADCASTS, HANOI HAS ACCUSED THE CAMBODIAN LEADERSHIP OF MURDERING THE PEOPLE OF CAMBODIA AS WELL AS THE COUNTRY'S VIETNAMESE AND CHINESE RESIDENTS. IT CHARGES THAT THIS GENOCIDE HAS BEEN UNDERTAKEN ON THE ORDERS OF A FOREIGN COUNTRY, WHICH IT DOES NOT NAME, BUT WHICH IS CLEARLY MEANT TO BE CHINA, CAMBODIA'S MAJOR ALLY. IN ANOTHER ESCALATION OF VIETNAM'S PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN AGAINST CAMBODIA, RADIO HANOI QUOTES THE BATTALION COMMANDER WHO, IT SAYS, ESCAPED TO VIETNAM TO AVOID A PURGE, AS SAYING THE CAMBODIAN LEADERSHIP SHOULD BE OVERTHROWN."

NARR: (END OPT)

IN WASHINGTON THIS WEEK, PRESIDENT CARTER AGAIN EXPRESSED GROWING DISSATISFACTION OVER THE PACE OF ACTION IN HIS ENERGY PROGRAM BY THE U.S. CONGRESS. THE BILL WAS SENT TO CAPITOL HILL SOME FIFTEEN MONTHS AGO AND IT IS STILL FAR FROM COMPLETED. IN A

MEETING WITH CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS, PRESIDENT CARTER MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE IS MOVING CLOSER TO ADOPTING STEPS LIMITING U.S. OIL IMPORTS -- THROUGH IMPORT TARIFFS DUE TO THE LACK OF A LEGISLATIVE SOLUTION. ENERGY SECRETARY JAMES SCHLESINGER SAID THE PRESIDENT IS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN HAVING SOMETHING TANGIBLE ON U.S. ENERGY ACTION TO ANNOUNCE AT THE BONN SUMMIT NEXT MONTH. HE ADDED THAT IF THE PRESIDENT CANNOT DO SO, IT WOULD NEGATIVELY AFFECT OTHER SUMMIT ISSUES:

TAPE: CUT EIGHT -- SCHLESINGER

"I THINK THAT THE REST OF THE WORLD IS LOOKING TOWARD US FOR LEADERSHIP IN THIS PARTICULAR AREA -- WHETHER THE UNITED STATES HAS THE SELF-DISCIPLINE AT THIS JUNCTURE TO DEAL WITH ITS ENERGY PROBLEMS. IF WE FAIL TO DO THAT, I THINK WE WILL NOT FIND THE FORTHCOMING ATTITUDE ON THE PART OF THE OTHER PARTICIPANTS TO HAVE A FASTER RATE OF GROWTH, PARTICULARLY ON THE PART OF GERMANY AND JAPAN, AND A WILLINGNESS TO COME TO AGREEMENT WITH REGARD TO MULTILATERAL TRADE ON THE PART OF OTHER PARTICIPANTS. THE LYNCHPIN OF THE SUMMIT CONFERENCE -- MADE CLEAR TO US BY OUR ALLIES -- RESTS ON THE AMERICAN ABILITY TO DEAL WITH ITS OIL PROBLEMS."

NARR:

MEANWHILE, IN GENEVA THE ORGANIZATION OF PETROLEUM EXPORTING COUNTRIES ANNOUNCED THIS WEEK AT ITS BI-ANNUAL MEETING THAT CRUDE OIL PRICES WILL NOT BE RAISED UNTIL NEXT YEAR. IT APPEARS THAT SAUDI ARABIA, THE WORLD'S LARGEST OIL PRODUCER, MANAGED NOT ONLY TO DEFEND THE CURRENT PRICE BUT ALSO TO MAINTAIN THE DOLLAR AS OPEC'S BASIC TRADING UNIT. THE DOLLAR'S VALUE HAS DECREASED IN RELATION TO OTHER MAJOR CURRENCIES IN THE INDUSTRIALIZED WORLD DURING THE LAST TWELVE MONTHS. AND SEVERAL OPEC MEMBERS HAVE BEEN PRESSURING FOR THE ADOPTION OF ANOTHER CURRENCY AS THE BASES FOR WORLD OIL PRICES.

ANNCR:

AND THOSE ARE SOME OF THE STORIES THAT MADE HEADLINES THIS WEEK. YOUR NARRATOR WAS --------. JOIN US AGAIN NEXT ---------

WHEN THE VOICE OF AMERICA TAKES A LOOK AT THE NEXT SEVEN DAYS OF THE WEEK.

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JS/RD/RCS